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## Bad weather hurts race team

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An unexpected delay cost Purdue University's Air Race Classic team critical time and eventually the race last week.

In the race leg from Frankfort, Ky., to Franklin, Pa., the team had to make an unscheduled stop because of bad weather. While sitting on the ground, the clock kept ticking, costing the team valuable points.

"The time doesn't stop until you get to the final airport of that leg," captain Marie Janus said. "It was the right decision. If we had kept going, it would have been under instrument conditions, which would have been unsafe and illegal."

Purdue's team of Janus, who recently graduated with a degree in aviation flight technology, and co-pilot Juliana Lindner, a junior in professional flight and management, took third of three teams in the Air Race Classic's collegiate division and 16th overall out of 33 teams.

The race was a cross-country competition to see which women's team could get its plane to go faster than its average speed. For every knot over that average, the team earned points. The teams look for favorable winds and lighten their planes to go faster.

Purdue won the collegiate division last year with Janus as co-pilot and came in fourth overall. This year's race ran from Bozeman, Mont., to Mansfield, Mass., with seven stops.

Lindner and Janus said despite their finish, they had a great time meeting people involved in the race. Lindner said the women were all different, and there was a lot to learn from them.

"I was the youngest and I was 20, and there was a 90-year-old at my table," Lindner said of the awards ceremony.

Lindner also said she learned a lot about how to fly the race. She said it was difficult not to want to fly first thing in the morning.

"A lot of times you're rethinking, 'Why are we sitting here?'" Lindner said. "There has to be a lot of patience."

Lindner is slated to be captain of Purdue's team next year. Her co-pilot for that race will become captain the next year.